

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for preventing telephone calls from being initiated using a current loop wire line telephone connection, which method comprises:

connecting a device incorporating a switch hook to a telephone line;

detecting the use of the telephone line, by a telecommunication apparatus connected to the telephone line; and

activating the switch hook of the device to go off hook;

whereby the telecommunication apparatus is unable to place an outgoing call using the telephone line.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising enabling a security switch that can be enabled or disabled, wherein when the security switch is enabled, the switch hook is activated to go off hook during use of the telephone line by a telecommunications apparatus connected thereto. ~~where the actuation of the switch hook can be placed alternatively into an enabled or disabled state, the method further including the preliminary step of enabling the switch hook.~~

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~3~~ 2, in which the external circuit is a timer circuit, whereby the switch hook is enabled and/or disabled at predetermined times.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~3~~ 2, in which the external circuit is a property security system.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
detecting one or more Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signals on the telephone line;
generating a constant Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signal in response to detecting one or more Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signals; and
applying the constant Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signal to the telephone line; whereby Dual Tone Multi-Frequency dialing cannot take place on the telephone line.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, in which the step of detecting one or more Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signals comprises the substep of detecting a predetermined sequence of Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signals.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, in which the predetermined sequence of Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signals is programmable.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including the subsequent step of recording the time and date corresponding to each detected unauthorized use of the telephone line, whereby a record of attempted calls is made.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, further including the subsequent step of recording the time and date by corresponding to each detected unauthorized use of the telephone line, whereby the device keeps a record of attempted calls.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including the subsequent step of activating a signaling device, whereby the signaling device indicates when an unauthorized telephone call is in progress.

12. (Original) The method of claim 6, further including the subsequent step of activating a signaling device, whereby the signaling device indicates when an unauthorized telephone call is in progress.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including the subsequent step of notifying the telephone company that an unauthorized call is in progress.

14. (Original) The method of claim 6, further including the subsequent step of notifying the telephone company that an unauthorized call is in progress.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, where the step of notifying the telephone company is comprised of the substep of applying by the device a predetermined multi-frequency signal to the telephone line; whereby the device can utilize the extended Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signaling set to notify the telephone company that an unauthorized call is in progress.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, where the step of notifying the telephone company is comprised of the following substeps:
initiating a digital communications link with the telephone company; and
transmitting data indicating the occurrence of one or more unauthorized call attempts.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, in which the step of transmitting data indicating the occurrence of one or more unauthorized call attempts further includes the substep of transmitting data indicating the time and date of the unauthorized call attempts.

18. (Currently Amended) A telephone line monitoring device comprising:
a telephone line interface for connection to a telephone network line, including a switch hook for alternatively placing the telephone line monitoring device in an on-hook or off-hook position, whereby a telecommunication apparatus operatively connected to the telephone network line is unable to place an outgoing call using the telephone network line when the monitoring device is in an off-hook position;

a line monitor circuit connected to the telephone line interface, which circuit provides an output signal when a device operatively connected to the telephone line has gone off hook; and
a microcontroller circuit electrically connected to the parallel set detection circuit output, the microcontroller providing an output which controls the state of the hook switch.

19. (Original) The device of claim 18, further including a security switch, which switch enables and disables operation of the switch hook, the switch being electrically connected to the microcontroller circuit.

20. (Original) The device of claim 18, further including a Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signal detector with an input electrically connected to the telephone line, and output electrically connected to the microcontroller circuit, whereby the Dual Tone Multi-Frequency detector outputs decoded Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signals to the microcontroller.

21. (Original) The device of claim 20, further including a Dual Tone Multi-Frequency signal generator, having an input electrically connected to the microcontroller circuit, and which output is electrically connected to the telephone line.

22. (Original) The device of claim 20, further including a telephone line data modem connected to the microcontroller circuit, and also connected to the telephone line,

whereby the modem provides for digital communications between the microcontroller and the telephone network.

23. (Original) The device of claim 20, further including a wireless RF transceiver connected to the microcontroller circuit, whereby the transceiver provides for communications indicating unauthorized call activity between the microcontroller and a wireless communications network.

24. (Original) The device of claim 18, further including a clock circuit electrically connected to the microcontroller circuit.

25. (Original) The device of claim 18, further including an indicating means, electrically- connected to the microcontroller circuit, whereby the indicating means provides indication to the device user of whether the telephone line is being used.